

Remarks/Arguments

The Reply Brief mailed December 21, 2004 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claim 1 - 14 are currently pending in the application, claims 5 - 6 and 11 - 14 are objected to and claims 1 - 4, 7 and 10 stand rejected. This amendment if filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination, effectively withdrawing the outstanding Appeal.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephonic interview February 17, 2005 to discuss the status of this case.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 - 4, and 10 as being anticipated by Bril (U.S. Patent No. 6,259,487 B1, hereinafter "Bril"). The Examiner also rejects Claim 7-9 as being unpatentable over Bril. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The following remarks are made to address the rejections and further the prosecution of this application as a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Claims 1, 2, 7 and 10 have been amended.

As amended, independent Claim 1 recites:

A digital apparatus comprising:

- (a) means for receiving from a peripheral device, interconnected by a digital bus, bit-mapped data representative of an on-screen display generated by said peripheral device;
- (b) means for receiving a digital stream representative of a video program; and
- (c) means for combining, in said digital apparatus, said bit-mapped data received from said peripheral device and said digital stream to produce a signal representative of a combined displayable image.

The present invention is directed to providing interoperability between multiple electronic devices that are connected together via a digital data bus, for example the IEEE 1394 bus. In particular, the present invention recognizes that when a digital apparatus, for example a DTV, which is capable of processing a digital stream representative of a video program, is coupled to a peripheral device, it is desirable to enable the apparatus to receive OSD data generated by the peripheral device in bit-mapped form, and to combine the bit-mapped data with the digital stream to produce a signal representative of a combined displayable image.

However, and in contrast to the present invention, Bril describes a television system which includes an on-screen display (OSD) controller, which stores the network

application data and other display entities in a memory module as separate bit maps (see Abstract, col. 2 lines 9 - 18, col. 3, lines 64 - 66). Further, specifically the "data may be received in one of known formats such as ASCII, HTML, VRML etc. which are encoded as electrical signals" (see col. 5, lines 63 - 65). That is, Brill specifically calls for the network interface 110 to receive encoded data. "The OSD controller 170 transforms the network application data as is suitable for storage and retrieval from memory module 180" (see col. 6, lines 9 - 11). While Brill stores the OSD data as bit-maps, the OSD receives encoded signals transforming the encoded signals into bit maps for storage. Further, Brill describes storing the network application data and other display entities in a memory module as separate bit maps.

Bril does not disclose receiving bit-mapped data from the peripheral device representative of an on-screen display generated by the peripheral device. Further, Brill does not disclose combining the bit-mapped data received from the peripheral device with the digital stream in the digital apparatus to produce a combined displayable image. Accordingly, Brill also does not disclose the apparatus as recited in independent claim 1 and highlighted above and, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Brill does not anticipate the present invention as recited in independent claim 1.

As amended, independent Claim 10 recites:

A digital television apparatus, comprising:

(a) means for receiving from a peripheral device, interconnected by a digital bus, bit-mapped data representative of an on-screen display generated by said peripheral device;

(b) means for receiving from said peripheral device, interconnected by a said digital bus, subsequent bit-mapped data representative of an updated portion of said previously transferred bit-mapped data, said subsequent bit-mapped data being indexed into said previously transferred bit-mapped data; and

(c) means for combining, in said digital television, said bit-mapped data or said subsequent bit-mapped data with a received digital stream representative of a video program to generate a combined displayable image (emphasis added)

For similar reasons Brill does not expressly disclose the apparatus recited in independent claim 10 and highlighted above and, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Brill does not anticipate the present invention as recited in independent claim 10.

_____As amended, independent Claim 7 recites:

A method for managing an on-screen display menu of a peripheral device interconnected to a display device via a digital bus, the display device performing the steps of:

receiving, from said peripheral device, a message indicative of the characteristics of a block of bit-mapped data stored in a memory device generated by said peripheral device, said bit-mapped data being generated by an on-screen display menu of said peripheral device;

(b) generating and providing asynchronous read request command to said peripheral device;

(c) receiving, in response to said asynchronous read request command, said bit-mapped data from said peripheral device;

(d) receiving a digital stream representative of a video program; and

(e) combining said bit-mapped data received from said peripheral device and said digital stream to produce a combined displayable image, said combined image being representative of said on-screen display generated by said peripheral device (emphasis added)

Thus, for similar reasons Brill does not expressly disclose the apparatus recited in independent claim 7 and highlighted above and, therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claim 7 is patentable over Brill. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claim 7 is not obvious over Brill.

In light of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated and is patentable over the art of record. Claims 2 - 4 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that Claims 2 - 4 are also not anticipated and are patentable over the art of record for at least these reasons as well as additional features contained therein. Similarly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 is not anticipated and is patentable over the art of record. It is further respectfully submitted that independent claim 7 is not anticipated and patentable over the art of record. Claims 8 and 9 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 7. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that Claims 8 and 9 are also patentable over the art of record for at least these reasons as well as additional features contained therein.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6440, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 18, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

2-18-05
Date

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